



**Washington State Auditor**  
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

May 22, 2002

The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Seattle  
Seattle, Washington

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the City of Seattle, King County, Washington, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2001, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the City's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit was performed pursuant to the *Revised Code of Washington* 43.09.260, under which a full report on the results of this audit will be issued. This report may include findings and recommendations on compliance matters, internal control procedures, and questionable costs or contingencies that would not be material in relation to the City's general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the City of Seattle, King County, Washington, and the plan net assets of its pension trust funds as of December 31, 2001, and the results of its operations and cash flows of its proprietary fund types and nonexpendable trust funds and changes in plan net assets of its pension trust funds for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 1 to the general purpose financial statements, the City was required to adopt Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, SFAS No. 138, *Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities* an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133, and Governmental Accounting Standards Board No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*, effective January 1, 2001.

The historical pension information from the City's retirement system is not a required part of the basic financial statements; it is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and do not express an opinion on it.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The combining, individual fund, and account group financial statements and schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of the City of Seattle, King County, Washington. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

The other data included in this report, designated the statistical section in the table of contents, have not been audited by us and, accordingly, we express no opinion on such data.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

